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Gender analysis of census data

Gender Analysis of Census Data in Egypt

Note by Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (Egypt)¹

I. Introduction

1. The population and housing census plays an essential role in public administration. The results of a census are used as a critical reference to ensure equity in distribution of wealth, government services, and representation nationwide.
2. The census also plays an essential role in all elements of the national statistical system, including in its economic and social components. Census statistics are used as benchmarks for statistical compilation and as a sampling frame for sample surveys.
3. A population census collects data on basic demographic and social characteristics of the population such as age, sex, and marital status, place of birth and residence. It may also include questions on literacy, school attendance, educational attainment, economic activity status, occupation, and number of children ever born, among others.
4. Those indicators are also important for monitoring socio-economic situation within a given country over time, and for conducting comparisons with other countries to determine gaps that need to be closed and achievements that needs to be sustained.
5. Therefore, the census is consider as a rich source of data for examining differences between women and men on specific issues that reflect gender discrimination and for

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studying specific population subgroups such as elderly women and men or those living in rural areas.

II. Population Censuses Background

6. Egypt had a very long history of census-taking. Some sources indicate counts in Egypt dating back to 3340 BC. This is ensured by papyrus manuscripts, ancient monuments in Paranoiac temples, marking the first census in Egypt; few of these records have survived.

7. In modern times, censuses began in 1800, when Egypt's population was found to be 2.5 million. This estimate was followed by a mid-century count of 4.5 million.

8. The first regular census in Egypt had been carried out in 1882, with a count of 6.7 million; since then, 13 population censuses were conducted.

9. The 1882 census was followed thereafter from 1897 at ten year intervals until 1947. According to this census, Egypt's population had reached 19 million. A census in 1976 revealed that the population had risen to 36.6 million.

10. The 1986 census indicated that the population of Egypt reached a total of 50.4 million, including about 2.3 million Egyptians working in other countries. In 1996, the census found a population of 59.3 million.

11. In 2006, the thirteenth census in the Egyptian census series revealed that the Egypt's population hit 76.5 million inside and outside the country.

12. The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) is currently responsible for conducting population and housing censuses.

III. Analysis of the 2006 Census

13. Since 1976 census, the Population Studies and Research Center (PSRC) in the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) evaluates and analyzes census data. The review of the quality level of the 2006 census data was done by comparing the results of the previous censuses 1986 and 1996, highlighting on population dynamics and its sub-groups differentials, comparing it with other findings of demographic surveys, and providing planners and policy makers with the most resent population changes, levels and patterns to serve as the basis for developmental policies and strategies.

14. Concerning the last census 2006, all output tables are classified by gender especially for female headed households, education level, and workers in the informal sector in addition to all other indicators.

15. An analytical paper based on the 2006 census was prepared with a gender perspective. The paper encompasses demographic and socio-economic characteristics by gender at the national level. This paper has largely analyzed the existing gender data gaps. Topics included in the paper are:

- i) Socio-economic characteristics of the population;
- ii) Socio-economic characteristics of females headed household;
- iii) Development of women status in education and work;
- iv) Trends in size and characteristics of aged population in Egypt (1986-2006);
- v) Socio-economic characteristics of children aged (0-17) years;
- vi) Child labor in Egypt;

vii) Internal migration in Egypt.

IV. The Analytical Gender gap

A. Educational Status

16. A study of the World Bank (2005) in the Middle East and North Africa on the relationship between girls' education and economic growth, have stated that the expansion of primary education for girls, especially in developing countries have more long-term effects on economic recovery than the education of boys. The education of women contributes to the increase of participation of women in the labor force and increases the education desire and ambition to participate in public work.

17. Egypt has entered a new era based on economic power supported by the knowledge and capabilities of scientific and technological, which represents a significant progress specifically for education in Egypt. It is normal to have educational system that plays a key role in the development of targeted population groups so as to contribute to a greater share in nation-building to achieve progress and prosperity of a country. In view to increase the interest in education, the national budget for education has doubled in order to meet these challenges. It did not exceed 15,59 billion pounds in 98/99, rose to 23,9895 billion pounds in 2005/2006, and then to 26,275 billion pounds in 2007/2008.

Percentage distribution of the population (10 +) by gender according to the status of the education

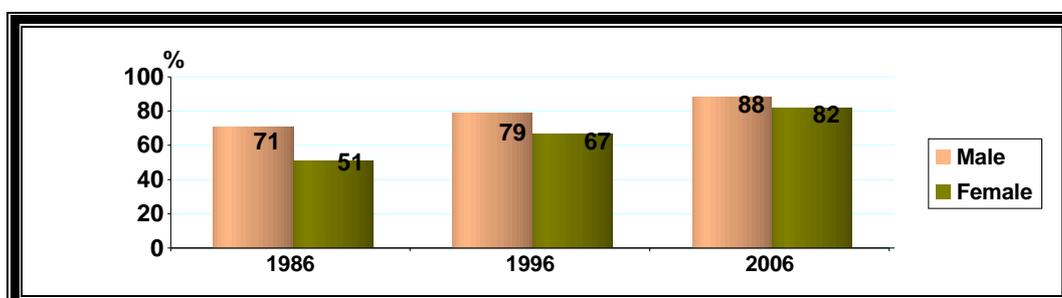
Educational status	1996			2006		
	Male	Female	Gender gap	Male	Female	Gender gap
Illiterate	29.01	50.2	-21.19	22.36	37.28	-14.93
Read & write	22.67	14.64	8.03	14.63	11.18	3.45
Primary	10.16	8.34	1.82	10.48	9.10	1.38
Preparatory	9.41	7.31	2.1	10.38	8.86	1.51
Intermediate	19.06	13.89	5.17	28.20	23.33	4.88
Above Int.	2.29	1.73	0.56	2.83	2.23	0.60
University & over	7.4	3.89	3.51	11.13	8.02	3.11
Total %	100	100		100	100	
Number	22892738	21924860		29296735	28092204	

18. Comments:

- The decrease in the percentage of illiterate women (10+) during 1996-2006 which still suffer from high illiteracy rate (50.2% 1996, 37.28% 2006).
- The increase in the percentage of females who attained intermediate education and consequently lead to a decrease in the gender gap between males and females in this educational group.

- The increase in the percentage of females who finished their university education that reflects a slight decrease in the gender gap between males and females in the university educational group.

Literacy rates (15-24 years) during 1986 – 2006



19. Comments:

- The percentage of males who can read and write increased from 71% in 1986 to 88% in 2006, and the percentage of females rose from 51% in 1986 to 82% in 2006.

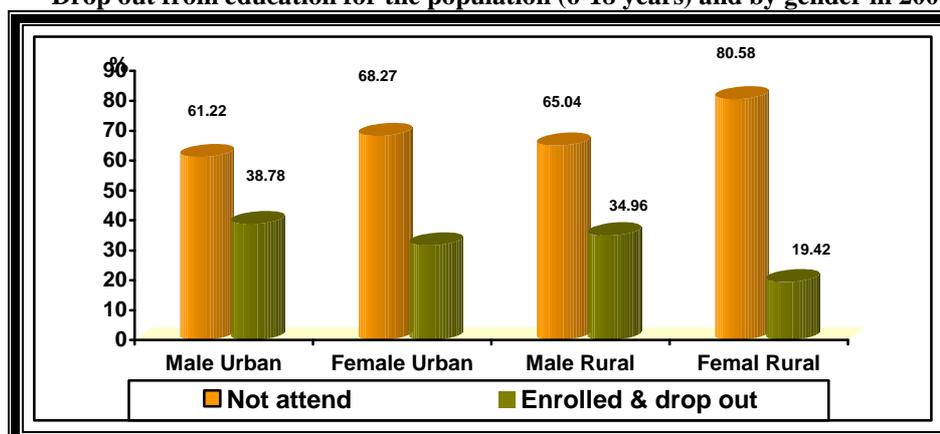
Percentage distribution of illiterates according to place of residence and gender

Place of Residence	1996			2006		
	Male	Female	Gender gap	Male	Female	Gender gap
Urban	30.48	29.85	0.63	31.73	29.65	2.08
Rural	69.52	70.15	-0.63	68.27	70.35	-2.08
Total %	100	100		100	100	
No.	6640276	11005746		6549535	1047399	

20. Comments:

- The illiteracy rate among females in rural areas is higher than males; similarly, the rate of decline of illiteracy among females is slower than the rate of decline among males, indicating that the gender gap between both sexes remains steady.
- There is a relative stability in the percentage distribution of illiterate males and females in both rural and urban areas in both censuses. Where we find that about one-third of illiterate males and females living in urban areas compared to about two-thirds living in rural areas, reflecting the increased rates of illiteracy in rural areas compared to urban.

Drop out from education for the population (6-18 years) and by gender in 2006



21. Comments:

- High proportion of females who are not enrolled in education in rural areas (80.58%) than urban (68.27%), reflecting the expanding of the size of the gender gap in this category (- 7.05 points percentage) in the urban compared to rural areas (- 15.54 percentage points).
- Increased the proportion of females who have enrolled and dropped out in urban areas 31.73% compared to rural areas 19.42% may be due to a stronger tendency of females to work to provide resources in the urban than in rural areas.

B. Work Status

22. The contribution of women in the labor market becomes a social reality in order to enable them to fulfill their role in economic and social efforts in development programs. The government was keen to increase their participation in small projects as well as in the management of various economic projects.

Percentage Distribution of labor force (15 years+) according to work status

Work status	1996			2006		
	Male	Female	Gender gap	Male	Female	Gender gap
Wage earning	61.9	71.6	-9.7	82.3	74.8	7.5
Employer	7.3	1.4	5.9	3.7	1.1	2.6
Self-employed	21.2	4.2	17	5.4	1.3	4.1
Unpaid family workers	2.7	2.4	0.3	0.6	2.3	-1.7
Employed ever worked	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.2
Employed never worked	6.4	20.2	-13.8	7.3	20.0	-12.7
Total %	100	100		100	100	
Number	14527709	2619343		18294587	3847636	

23. Comments:

- The increase in the percentage of wage-earner females and the decrease of the gender gap in this working group.
- The decrease in the percentage of self – employed females and also the decrease in the gender gap as a result of the significant decrease in the percentage of males in this working group.
- Relatively stable percentage of female unpaid family workers during the period with higher percentage in rural than in urban areas.
- Relatively stable female unemployment rate during 1996-2006 with higher percentage in rural than in urban areas.

Selected Indicators of unemployment, 2006 census

Indicators	2006		
	Male	Female	Total
Unemployment population 15+ year	7.7	19.3	9.7
Unemployment among 18-29 year	18.6	39.7	22.9
Unemployment rate for under age 30 to total unemployment for 15+years	90.4	94.3	91.7
% of first time unemployed to all unemployed population 15+ year	90.7	97.2	93.0

24. Comments:

- Labor force participation rates are higher among males 30 to less than 50 years and females 20 to less than 50 years.
- Youth unemployment is the dominant form of unemployment in Egypt. More than 90 % of unemployed were under age 30 in the 2006 census.
- Well over 90% of unemployed in 2006 census had never worked before

V. Challenges and Recommendations**A. Challenges**

- 1) Illiteracy is declining among younger generations, but challenges still exist (both among total population and among females).
- 2) Gender gap (female as percent of male) is more pronounced in illiteracy, university enrolment, and participation in the labor force.

B. Recommendations

- 1) Reconstruction of the educational system of pre-university and university education with the purpose of satisfying labor market needs.
- 2) Empowerment of women through increasing their opportunities in education and labor market in order to increase their participation in the development process.

- 3) Plan and implement training programs for women to increase their abilities to run small projects, as well as providing funds for such projects.
- 4) Encourage foreign and local investment in order to increase work opportunities especially for females.

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